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LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach the press communiqué by the Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricaine, National Political Council, of the Central African Republic on matters of concern to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio Deinde FERNANDEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: French]

Press release issued at Banqui on 23 February 1999

The National Political Council, the decision-making body of the Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain (MLPC), met in special session in Bangui from 20 to 23 February 1999 to analyse the political situation following the legislative elections of 22 November and 13 December 1998. It welcomed the calm atmosphere in which these elections were held, which bears witness to the political maturity of the Central African people.

The National Political Council wishes to thank the international community, and in particular the United Nations through its Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), the donor countries, the various contact groups and all those of good will who helped bring about the success of these elections.

The National Political Council also welcomes the effective establishment of the institutions provided for in the Constitution.

During its work, the National Political Council, at its request, heard an important announcement by the President of the National Assembly, who is a member of the National Political Council, on talks that had taken place with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the ambassadors of countries friendly to the Central African Republic and members of the United Nations Security Council on the so-called parliamentary crisis in the Central African Republic.

In this context, it should be recalled that the presidential majority, in the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Ambassadors of France, the United States of America, China and Egypt and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations had made significant concessions to the opposition in order to constitute the Bureau of the National Assembly.

Since these concessions were rejected by the opposition, the National Assembly was forced to constitute its Bureau to remain in conformity with article 48 of the Constitution and article 5 of its Rules of Procedure.

However, in view of the intransigence of the opposition on the one hand, and the insistence of the group of countries friendly towards the Central African Republic and members of the United Nations Security Council on the other hand, the Bureau of the National Assembly agreed to additional concessions to convince the opposition to return to the already constituted Bureau, namely, 5 seats out of 11, 3 out of 7 chairmanships of standing committees and the post of Secretary-General of the National Assembly.

The National Political Council (CPN) considers these concessions to be an act of willingness on the part of the government deputies to have all those who

were elected by the nation participate in the running of the National Assembly, in order to ease the political tensions once again.

Therefore, the National Political Council makes an urgent appeal:

- To the opposition deputies to return to the hall of the National Assembly on 1 March 1999;

- To the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate of MINURCA so that it may supervise the forthcoming presidential elections.

By order of the National Political Council

(Signed) K. Gabriel J. ELOUBA
Second Vice-President